

# Armed with federal grant, residents take back neighborhood

**By Dale Perry**  
STAFF WRITER

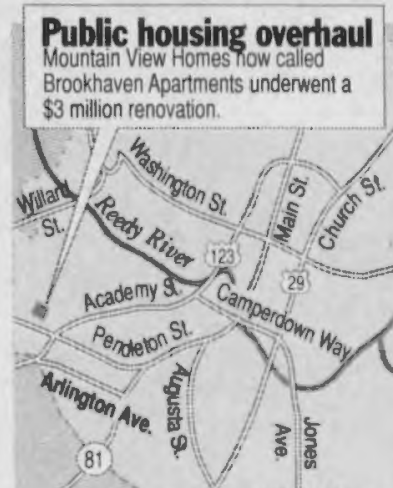
Four years ago, LaTonya Williams was trying to find another home because drugs, break-ins and fights infested street corners around her family's small apartment at Mountain View Homes in West Greenville.

"It was terrible," Williams said. "It was no way to live. I could see men selling crack on the streets in front of the apartments. I wouldn't let my children go outdoors unless I could be with them."

Residents who shared her concerns decided they were fed up with drug dealers in charge of their Perry Avenue neighborhood. They fought back, won \$3 million in federal aid, rebuilt their community and now are returning home.

The drugs and crimes aren't gone, but Williams and her neighbors say they are witnessing vast change. She lets her children ride their bikes and play alone.

The renovation of the city's oldest and first housing proj-



ect — renamed Brookhaven — and a get-tough approach by federal housing administrators to drugs and crime have created a sense of a family-friendly neighborhood for Brookhaven long-timers.

"I couldn't believe it was the same place we used to live," said Williams, who

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